

R E M A R K S

This application is a divisional application of my co-pending application Serial No. 09/445,776 filed March 27, 2000 USA PCT National Stage Patent Application PCT/EP98/02901 filed May 16, 1998.

Please enter this amendment simultaneously with the filing of this continuing divisional application and prior to calculation of claim fees. No multiple-dependent form claims exist and no multiple-dependent claim fees apply.

The specification has been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and claims 13-22 are presented. Claim 13 corresponds to claim 13 of parent application 09/445,776, but has been amended to avoid objections to language made by the Examiner to similar language appearing in claim 1 during prosecution of the parent application. Claim 18 is similar to claim 13 but includes wording similar to that discussed in an interview on September 23, 2003 during prosecution of the parent application, which wording is believed to direct claim 18 to the same invention as is set forth in claim 1 of the parent application. In particular it is believed that claim 18 would be classified as drawn to an electrical connection, and not classified as drawn to laser welding.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee as of the filing date, and to provide an action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted  
Günther Bender  
by: \_\_\_\_\_

MARTIN A. FARBER  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registered Representative  
Registration No.: 22,345

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 473  
New York, NY 10017 (212) 758-2878